The Philippine Legislature has provided a method for naturalization. Philippine citizenship may now be acquired by three classes of persons: (i) natives of the Philippines who are not citizens thereof 5 (2) natives of the insular possessions of the United States5 and (3) citizens of the United States, or foreigners who under the laws of the United States may become citizens of the latter country if residing therein. The foreigners referred to in the last clause include Europeans, some Asiatics belonging to the white race, and persons of African descent. As a consequence, Asiatics who belong to the yellow and brown races, such as Chinese, Japanese, Siamese, Malays, and Hindus, cannot become Philippine citizens by naturalization because they cannot become American citizens under the laws of the United States. Any woman married to a citizen of the Philippine Islands and who might herself be lawfully naturalized is deemed a Philippine citizen.

The only qualification for a native of the Philippines to be able to acquire Philippine citizenship is that he must not be less than twenty-one years of age. The other persons who are permitted to become Philippine citizens must, in addition to the age clause, have the following qualifications: (i) residence in the Philippines for a continuous period of not less than five years5 (2) irreproachable conduct during this period5 (3) be the holder in the Philippines of real estate worth not less than 1,000 pesos ($500) or have some trade or profession, and (4) be able to speak and write English, Spanish, or some native tongue.

Comparatively few foreigners have

taken advantage of the Philippine Naturalization Law; not more than five hundred since the law was enacted in 1920. Of the applicants for Philippine citizenship, the Spaniards and the Chinese of Philippine birth have predominated. The Japanese have characteristically preferred to remain Japanese, and there are just three cases of Japanese applying for naturalization to become Philippine citizens.